

A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *TIBELLUS* SIMON (ARANEAE: THOMISIDAE) FROM JHENIDAH, BANGLADESH¹

(With six text-figures)

V. BISWAS² AND D. RAYCHAUDHURI³

Key words: New species, spider, *Tibellus*, Araneae, Thomisidae, Bangladesh

A new species of spider genus *Tibellus* Simon, *T. shikerpurensis* is described and illustrated from Jhenidah, Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the genus *Tibellus* Simon (Family: Thomisidae) are poorly known in Bangladesh although a few records, on different species, were found (Chowdhury and Nagari 1981, Biswas *et. al.* 1993, Okuma *et. al.* 1993, Begum and Biswas 1997). Several species on the other hand, of the genus are known from countries like India (Tikader 1980, Tikader and Biswas 1981) and Pakistan (Dyal 1935).

The genus *Tibellus* Simon is being reported for the first time from Bangladesh and the same is being described as *T. shikerpurensis* sp. nov. The types are at present in the collection of the Department of Zoology, Government P.C. College, Bagerhat, Bangladesh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection and preservation of the spider specimens were made following Kaston (1972) and Tikader (1987). The materials were studied with a Stereozoom Binocular Microscope, model Zeiss, SV8. All the measurements are taken with an eyepiece.

The species was identified by following Tikader (1980, 1987) and was confirmed by the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

¹Accepted October, 2000

²Department of Zoology, Government P.C. College, Bagerhat 9301, Bangladesh.

³Entomology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, 35, Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata 700 019, West Bengal, India.

Tibellus shikerpurensis sp. nov.

(Figs 1-6)

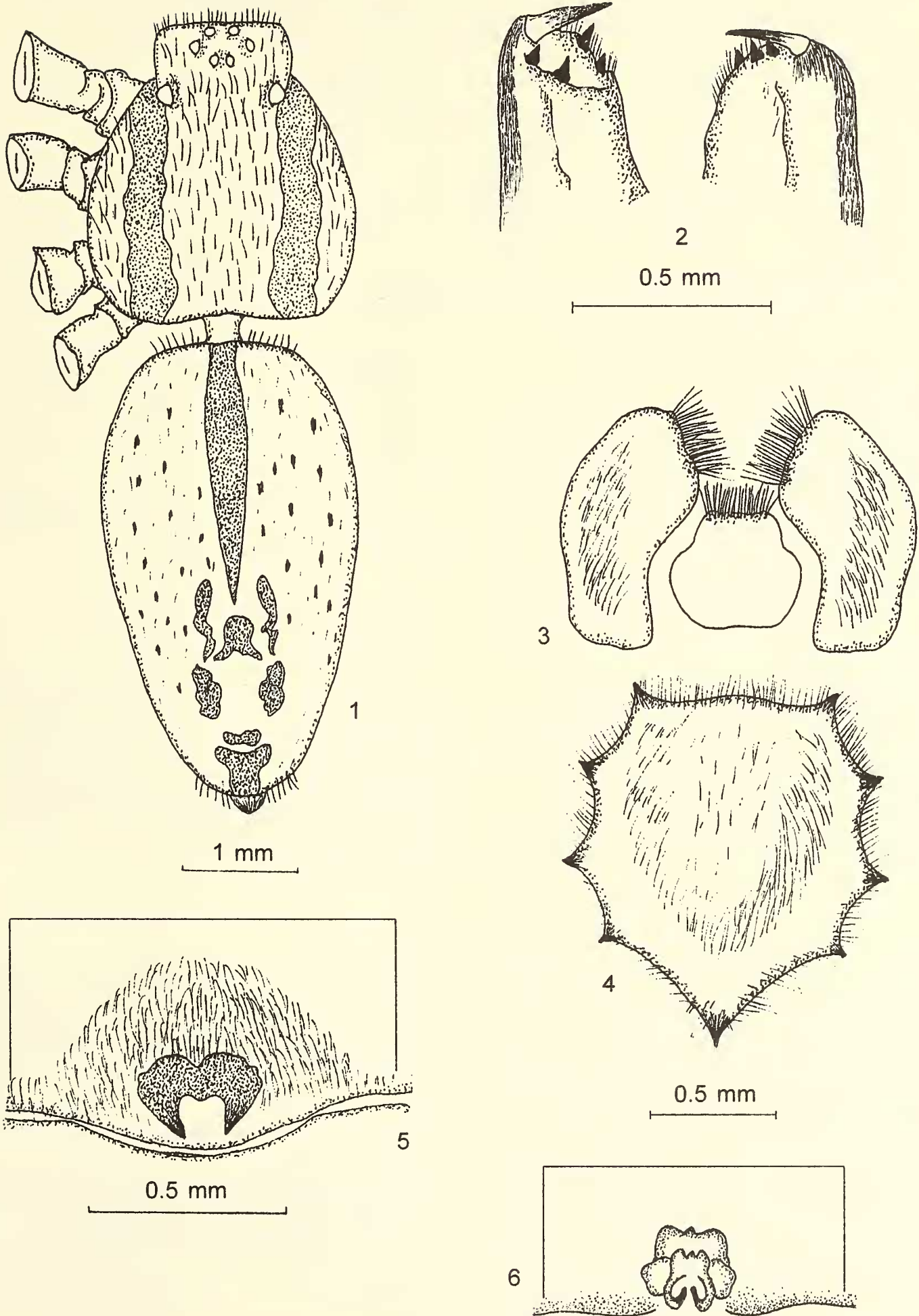
General: ♀, Brownish-green; cephalothorax brownish-green; legs greenish; abdomen greenish-white.

Measurements (in mm): Total length 6.40; carapace 2.20 long, 2.00 wide; abdomen 4.20 long, 3.10 wide.

Cephalothorax: Broad, slightly longer than wide, wider near base, clothed with fine hairs and pubescence (Fig. 1); cephalic region raised and produced anteriorly, with straight anterior margin. Eyes in 2 rows, both the rows strongly procurved, ocular area wider than long; postero-laterals distally placed and larger than others; 2 longitudinal brownish bands running between the base of posterior eyes and posterior margin clothed with spines and hairs. Chelicerae strong and stout, clothed with sharp spines, each of inner and outer margins with 2 teeth (Fig. 2). Palps long, filiform, 1.2 mm in length (Table 1) each covered with sharp spines and setae. Maxillae longer than wide, medially wide and anteriorly scopulate (Fig. 3). Labium wider medially, anteriorly narrowing and scopulate (Fig. 3). Sternum heart-shaped, pointed, posteriorly clothed with spines (Fig. 4). Legs long and slender, with spines and hairs; leg formula 1243 and the measurements (in mm) as in Table 1.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, posteriorly narrowing, blunt, clothed with hairs and pubescence; dorsum decorated with brownish

NEW DESCRIPTIONS



Figs 1-6: *Tibellus shikerpurensis* sp. nov., Female Holotype, 1. Female dorsal view (legs omitted), 2. Chelicera, 3. Maxillae and Labium, 4. Sternum, 5. Epigynum, 6. Internal genitalia

Table 1: Measurements of legs and palps for (♀) *Tibellus shikerpurensis* sp. nov.

Leg	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	3.8/3.8	1.0/1.0	2.5/2.5	2.0/2.0	1.3/1.3	10.6/10.6
II	3.5/3.5	0.9/0.9	2.3/2.3	2.0/2.0	1.0/1.0	9.7/9.7
III	3.0/3.0	0.5/0.5	2.0/2.0	1.9/1.9	0.9/0.9	8.3/8.3
IV	3.4/3.4	0.5/0.5	2.0/2.0	1.9/1.9	0.9/0.9	8.7/8.7
Palps	0.3/0.3	0.2/0.2	0.3/0.3	—	0.4/0.4	1.2/1.2

markings and patches; epigyne and internal genitalia as in Figs 5 and 6.

Material examined: Type-Data: Holotype: ♀ in spirit will be deposited in the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Type locality: Shikerpur, Jhenidah, 18.vii.1993, Coll. V. Biswas.

Paratype: 1 ♀, same as for the holotype.

Distribution: BANGLADESH: District Jhenidah.

Etymology: The species has been named after the type locality.

Remarks: The species *T. shikerpurensis* sp. nov. resembles *T. chaturshingi* Tikader (Tikader 1980) but stands distinct because of the following

1. Cephalic region raised and produced.
2. Anterior row of eyes and posteromedians forming a hexagon.

3. Cephalothoracic bands nearly straight.
4. Abdomen not overhanging cephalothorax with several black markings.
5. Much different epigynum.

These differences justify the recognition of the species as new to science.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to Dr. S.C. Majumder, Scientist-SD, Sunderban Field Research Station, Zoological Survey of India, Canning, West Bengal, for confirming the identity of the species and the Head, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, for providing laboratory facilities.

REFERENCES

- BEGUM, A. & V. BISWAS (1997): A list of the spider fauna of Barisal division, Bangladesh (Araneae: Arachnida). *Bangladesh J. Zool.* 25(2): 207-210.
- BISWAS, V., H.R. KHAN, N.Q. KAMAL & A. BEGUM (1993): A preliminary study of the rice-field spiders in Jhenidah, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Zool.* 21(1): 85-92.
- CHOWDHURY, S.H. & S. NAGARI (1981): Rice-field spiders from Chittagong. *Proc. Zool. Soc. Bangladesh*, pp. 53-72.
- DYAL, S. (1935): Fauna of Lahore 4: Spiders of Lahore. *Bull. Dept. of Zool., Panjab Univ.* 1: 1-252.
- KASTON, B.J. (1972): How to know the spiders. 2nd edn., Wm. C. Brown Co. Pub., Dubuque, Iowa, 272 pp.
- OKUMA, C., N.Q. KAMAL, Y. HIRASHIMA, Z. ALAM & T. OGATA (1993): Illustrated Monograph on the rice-field spiders of Bangladesh. IPSA-JAICA, Salna, Gazipur, pp. 1-93.
- TIKADER, B.K. (1980): The Fauna of India, Spiders: Araneae, Vol. I, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, 247 pp.
- TIKADER, B.K. (1987): Handbook of Indian Spiders. Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. Pp. 251.
- TIKADER, B.K. & B. BISWAS (1981): Spider fauna of Calcutta and Vicinity. *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Pap. No.* 30: 1-149.

